

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN

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NSC:COL. DENEND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113209

FOR VP PARTY: ATTN: HOLBROOKE/OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, RTG

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: MANILA 07143

1. IF RTG GIVES AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO OUR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE 1 TO 2 MILLION DOLLARS (SEED MONEY) FOR RESETTLEMENT PLANNING, WE BELIEVE THIS AMOUNT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY OCTOBER 1978, AT THE LATEST, AND PROBABLY SOONER. WE EXPECT THESE FUNDS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A GRANT TO THE RTG EITHER BILATERALLY FROM STATE'S REFUGEE AND MIGRATION FUND OR THROUGH THE UNHCR TO FUND PLANNING ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT WHATEVER FORM OF RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES THE RTG DECIDES TO UNDERTAKE.

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2. NO DETAILED PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE USE OF THIS MONEY SINCE DECISIONS ON ITS APPLICATION WERE MEANT TO BE MADE JOINTLY WITH THE RTG IF IT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF THESE REFUGEES AND ON THE NEED TO BEGIN PLANS IN THIS DIRECTION. IN PROCEEDING WITH THE RTG ON PLANNING FOR SUCH A PROGRAM,

IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE THE UNHCR, AS WELL, SINCE SUCH A MAJOR RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITY, ITSELF, WILL REQUIRE MULTILATERAL FINANCING WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF ACTIVITY TO WHICH SUCH FUNDS

MIGHT BE APPLIED WOULD BE FOR THE RTG TO CONTRACT FOR A TEAM OF EXPERTS WITH THAI COUNTERPARTS TO STUDY LAND USE, AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, AGRONOMY, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MARKETING, ENGINEERING AND HYDROLOGY AND/OR OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LOCATION AND TYPE OF RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDER-TAKEN.

4. SHEPARD LOWMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS WILL BE IN BANGKOK IN LATE MAY. IF RTG AGREES IN PRINCIPLE, WE SUGGEST THAT THE PRIME MINISTER BE URGED TO NAME A SENIOR RTG OFFICIAL AS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COORDINATOR. WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM USOM, LOWMAN COULD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNHCR, NEGOTIATE WITH SUCH AN OFFICIAL THE TERMS OF A GRANT TO INITIATE SUCH A PLANNING ACTIVITY.

5. WE ARE PROVIDING A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON THE STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS ON THE PROPOSED PAROLE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. CHRISTOPHER
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